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The Policyholder.

What is the position of the policyholders in the reorganized Equitable? According to the statement of Presiding Justice Morgan J. O'Brien, it was he, as a large policyholder in the society, who enlisted the powerful cooperation of Mr. THOMAS F. RYAN, another policyholder, in the movement to purchase Mr. Hype's controlling stock interest and to convey the same to three trustees of eminent trustworthiness. The names of all of Mr. RYAN's associates in this purchase have not yet been disclosed, but he speaks of them as "policyholders who, like myself, have never had any relations with the Equitable except as policyholders."

In the next place, the reorganization now in progress purposes to adopt the measure of mutualization already approved by the Superintendent of Insurance, but held up by Justice MADDOX'S decision; namely, the choice of twenty-eight directors by the policyholders, as against twenty-four directors representing the stock. But whatever objections applied to the original twentyeight to twenty-four plan, with regard to the free exercise of the policyholders' franchise untrammeled by interference or dictation either by the central management or by the society's local agents, are removed by the expedient of placing the machinery of election in the control of the three trustees.

The new plan goes much further than that. Not only are the twenty-eight majority directors to be voted into office by the trustees as the policyholders may determine, but the remaining twenty-four, or stock, directors are to be chosen absolutely and finally by the uncontrolled judgment of the trustees. The propriety interest acquired from Mr. Hype by Mr. Ryan and his associates begins business by divesting itself entirely of the power to vote for any one of the fifty-two directors. The policyholders elect twenty-eight of the directors through the trustees as the representatives of the majority stock interest. The trustees, as the representatives of the policyholders' interests, select the other twenty-four.

We assume that the legal obstacles to charter amendment, as indicated in Justice Maddox's decision upholding the property rights of the minority stockholders, are met by the trustee plan: that is to say, while there will continue to be elections under the original charter, at which all stock may vote, the majority interest will decide these elections and constitute the board

in the manner already set forth. Thus it seems that the mutualization under the Ryan plan goes much further away from stock control and in the direction of policyholder management than any previous proposal that was compatible with practical and legal conditions. Indeed, that it is as thorough as these conditions permit.

The efficiency of the system and the guarantee of the Equitable's future prosperity will depend upon the character of the men holding in trust the control of the society's affairs. The three names proposed are such as to justify the confidence of every policyholder. Mr. RYAN did not overstate the high and honorable quality of the service when he appealed to Mr. CLEVELAND to help restore to soundness and public confidence this great trust affecting so many people of slender means.

The Pursuit of Truth.

It is not surprising that Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH'S letters to THE SUN on the religious problem, one of which we print to-day, have provoked bitter criticism, both from believers in the theological theory of the government of the universe and from people who reject it with remarkable discussions reveal a profoundly religious character and temperament in the writer, but they show also an intellect perplexed with doubts

of that old dogmatic scheme. This religious bias is resented by the infidel, who knows no other force in the assails him for giving expression to questionings which are in his mind. which the science so respectfully regarded by Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH is di- to maturity.

rectly arrayed.

fear of the social consequences which may come to the world from the destruction of that faith and inspiration and the substitution for a personal GoD ruling the universe of a Force impersonal, merciless and far beyond the reach of human sentimental appeal.

Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH is a distinguished type of this class of mind. He would not destroy, yet he cannot desist from the pursuit of truth and cannot refuse to give to truth recognition when it is demonstrated to him, whatever the consequences may be. A like loyalty prevails widely even in the ministry appointed to uphold theological dogmas which are deprived of authority by revelations of natural science that their intellects cannot refuse to accept. In his letter of to-day Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH instances some of the striking examples of this contemporary clerical tendency; and unquestionably there are many signs of a radical revolution in religious

theories, even in the Church itself. He ends his letter by expressing satisfaction that even in an age so much perplexed with doubts" he discerns an activity of the general conscience" which is remarkable. This is an incident of a period more than any other "full of the earnest desire for truth," to whose significance we have before adverted. Nobody need be afraid of so honest a quest.

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," were the words of the Founder of Christianity.

Speech and Manners.

Mr. HENRY JAMES did a good service to the graduating class of the women's college of Bryn Mawr on Thursday in admonishing them to be careful of their speech, to avoid an unmusical enunciaion and to "cultivate tidy speaking."

Mr. James in his present visit to his native country has found many things distasteful to him, but the American pronunciation, even by people who "call themselves educated," seems especially to shock his delicate ear; for example, they talk about "vanillar ice cream," "Portor Ricor and Cubar;" and, generally, "they tack the 'r' to the end of words to which it does not belong." This particular sin against English speech we have not discovered hereabouts to any alarming extent, but probably it is glaring in other parts of the country, or Mr. JAMES would not have instanced it as especially notable

"Untidiness" in speech, however, is frequent enough everywhere in America, and probably was never more general than it is now among "people who think themselves educated." In the arguments of lawyers, even the most learned, in after dinner speeches by orators having or claiming distinction in eloquence, in the conversation of men and women ostensibly cultivated you hear an English pronunciation which suggests "untidiness," if not unrefined and uneducated associations. It is rare to hear the language spoken with an elegance in the choice of vocabulary, in pronunciation, in enunciation and in modulation which betokens a satisfactory cultivation.

Mr. HENRY JAMES, however, could have extended his criticism to much of the speech in circles of English society in which such "untidiness" might not be expected. He must have heard it in the speech of even some Oxford men and very generally in the speech of army and navy officers and of many in the A Suggested Remedy for "Childless Archipelago, and at Tapengi or Mirs Bay, aristocratic English sphere. Correctness and precision of pronunciation are often avoided by these men and "untidiness" is affected as a sort of badge of superiority to people who are more choice in their language, In America Mr. James finds the "r" tacked on to the end of words to which it does not belong, but how about the elimination by those Englishmen of the "g" in the pronunciation of words to the end of which it rightfully belongs?

Of course, our sins are in no way mitigated because others as grievous are committed in England by "persons who the test of correct pronunciation to be the speech of really educated and miltivated people and advised the Bryn Mawr girls carefully to observe and imitate it. That is the true authority in speech. Dictionaries cannot give it. It is in the actually spoken language of those whose eminence in cultivated speech entitles them to establish the standard of correctness. That is, it is a matter of the

best usage. Another matter on which Mr. JAMES dwelt deserves careful attention, more especially by American women. It concerns vocal modulation, for "the value of good breeding is largely tested by the tone, which must be sound, agreescorn. The tone and temper of those able, neat and consistent;" and this "tone standard is an art to be acquired and cultivated just as much as any of the arts and sciences of life." Such cultivated utterance "may become a beautiful habit;" yet, as Mr. James said, the tones

heard are usually "awful discords." Women spend years in learning to play universe than impersonal scientific law, a musical instrument, in polishing their and he looks on Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH as | manners and in studying the mysteries a trimmer, as a man who is afraid to go of dress and fashion, yet their voices to the logical conclusion of the premises | are left uncultivated, though on these which he is compelled unwillingly to ac- depends in highest degree the charm cept. The refigious believer bitterly of social intercourse. Go into a drawing room or a dining room crowded with women and the din of the vocal discord Faith, has no toleration for doubt, no is distressing, yet all this is conquerable not know precisely, but relatively it may old college, then public opinion becomes matter how seriously and regretfully by education, and the conquering of it is confessed. It allows no tampering with one of the most important functions of religious dogma, and least of all with the | education. The musical instrument fundamental supernaturalism against most carefully to be cultivated is the may remark casually, abandoned the human voice, from the earliest childhood

Mr. HENRY JAMES might have extended His attitude toward the great riddle of his criticism to contemporary manners the universe, however, represents that generally, and in England no less than tent and multiplicity of its religious of the mass of educated and thoughtful in America. A commendable feature minds of this period; and among them of the present civilization in his highest under its late rector, the now Bishop very many of the distinctly and pro- expression of social cultivation is its foundly religious east of his own. They insistence on genuineness and sincerity. are not controversialists. They have no It demands that manners shall be really quarrel to wage with faith. They have an outward sign of an inward and spiritno desire to upset the religious belief ual grace, not a mere superficial veneer which lies at the foundation of our of proprieties and punctilies. The old whole system of social morality and is "frills" of manner are put away as artithe passe of which rests spiritual aspira-tion for a better and higher life. Like able. People are more natural than they

spheres which boast of setting the standard of superiority. Table manners, for example, are very bad in these days. Chivalry, too, has been discarded, and along with it courtesy. People who pride themselves on their fashionable distinction are often among the most boorish in their inconsiderateness. It is not merely that they profess to be a law unto themselves, but there is in them an anarchy of manners which is inconsistent with decent breeding. They proceed as if their theory was that much money covers a multitude of social sins.

Exit Dalrymple.

Mayor DUNNE of Chicago has bid Godspeed to JAMES DALRYMPLE of Glasgow, and Chicago's enthusiastic advocates of municipal ownership are rather glad than otherwise that the Scot has departed. His advice and counsel were not what was wanted. He displayed a most disheartening habit of talking about tram lines owned and operated by municipal corporations as business enterprises. He seemed but little interested in, or affected by, "great social revolutions," "reclaiming from the car lords the people's property" or "emancipation from the thraldom of the traction barons." Had he been an employee of a private corporation he could not have taken a more prosaic view of the problem Mayor DUNNE's administration

must solve. Mr. DALBYMPLE visited Cleveland on invitation of THREE CENT TOM, who is running for reelection as Mayor of that Tom is for municipal ownership, and Mr. DALRYMPLE was asked to address the citizens as an expert. He was a distinct disappointment. His address will not be of much use in the Johnson campaign. When it had been delivered there was an appreciable decline in the enthusiasm of Mr. Johnson's followers.

"Humph," they said, "he's no good." The truth is that Mr. DALRYMPLE was brought to this country under false pretenses. His hosts expected him to spread the gospel of State socialism. They wanted him to beat a drum for municipal ownership as a political policy. He was heralded as one who would give the death blow to private capital in public service enterprises. These things he did not. He visited Chicago as a practical street railway manager, not as a political prophet. He advised Mayor DUNNE much as HERBERT H. VREELAND of this city advises the heads of the numerous street railways that seek his counsel. This was a great disappointment to Mayor DUNNE, but Mr. DALBYMPLE is

not to blame for that. As a matter of fact, Chicago had no need to call on any foreign city for advice about its street railways. Among its own residents are men capable of giving advice as valuable as any that can be got from Glasgow, or Budapest, or any other community. The mistake was made in supposing that successful municipal management must be, in some mysterious manner, radically different from successful private management. Mr. DALRYMPLE has at least tried to teach Mayor DUNNE that such is not the case. If he has succeeded, his trip to this country will not have been entirely in vain.

The tendency in this country toward formality was illustrated again on Wednesday in the advocacy by an Episcopal clergyman before a Sunday school convention in this city of the introduction of ritualistic forms for the special benefit of children, the children's mass and the manger, for example. His reason for making the suggestion was that "Episcopal churches are childless churches."

The fact that those churches and churches of other religious denominations are "childless," more especially think they are educated," and Mr. HENRY in neighborhoods where the population JAMES is justified in pointing out our is of the richer sort, is now observable in particular "untidiness" of speech. He New York. Churches which in the old was wholly right, too, when he described days used to have flourishing Sunday schools are now able to get together only a paltry number of children for their religious education. The familiarity with the Bible which all children of reputable Protestant families acquired in the Sunday schools of a generation or two as a matter of course and as regularly and punctually as to a secular school on the other days of the week; now there is

no such invariable custom. The importance of the Protestant Sunday school in former days is illustrated Equitable Life Assurance Society. At the time of the foundation of that company in 1859 by Mr. HENRY BALDWIN HYDE, the father of the young man on superintendent of such a Sunday school was then of much dignity and importance, and the school itself was one of the

leading features of the church. be assumed to have declined in prosperity. Mr. JAMES WADDELL ALEXANDER. the president of the Equitable, we so far as to become one of the vestry of solemn pledge. the St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. a parish which is notable for the exand charitable machinery, as organized GREER: but in its Fifth avenue central home a description of it as "childless," so far as concerns its Sunday school, may not be inappropriate.

None of the churches of that region has a flourishing Sunday school after the pattern of the old days. The Fifth avenue district, comprising the Assembly districts, Fifth, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sev-

the thraldom of artificiality may be car- tains at present about 250,000 inhabiried to a mannerless extreme in social tants. It is the part of Manhattan where the Protestant church membership is relatively much the greatest and the Protestant churches largest and most numerous. But the attendance on the Sunday schools of the region has not kept pace with the growth of the population since the days of the Rev. Dr.

ALEXANDER. The cynical explanation is that the fashion of having children no longer prevails among the sort of people who live in that favored residence district—that Mr. ROOSEVELT'S "race suicide" goes on there. At any rate, the old fashion of bundling off children to Sunday school every Sunday morning seems to have If the President has never eaten roasted gone out of vogue to a very great extent. gone out of vogue to a very great extent. Perhaps they are taught religion at home by parents, guardians and governesses; perhaps not. It may be that parents of the kind who live in that region of the town fear the consequences of herding together children, being wary of microbes, after the fashion of this time, or fearful of an association not desirable. according to their present exclusive social notions.

The suggestion of the Episcopal clergyman to whom we have referred, that there is need of greater use of symbols and pictures to suit the child's nature as a necessary means of attracting children to religious worship, and that the churches of his own communion are "childless churches," is significant. It was bitterly combated by another clerical speaker on the occasion as pernicious. "I cannot understand," he said, "how the celebration of the Eucharist before a congregation of children who are not mature enough to receive it can be in accordance with the mind of the Church or with the principles of our religion." The Council of Trent of the Roman Catholic Church anathematized "any one who saith that the communion of the Eucharist is necessary for little children before they have arrived at years of discretion." It is true that generally in the Roman Catholic churches of this country there is on Sunday a low mass known as the "children's mass," but there is no Eucharist for children. In the Russian Church, however, according to an authority quoted by us on Wednesday, the Eucharist is administered to infants, but the wine only.

For a New Chinese Navy.

It is reported from Pekin that a scheme has been drawn up for the creation of a new Chinese navy. Prince Pu-Lung, who represented China at the St. Louis exposition, is said to be the originator of it, and he has been assisted by important members of the Government and high officials. Prince CHING, YUAN-SHI-KAI, Viceroy of Pechili, and TIEN-LIANG, all belonging to the board for the organization of the new Chinese army. are cooperating in working out the details, and it is said that the funds necessary to carry out the scheme have been arranged for. A special Ministry of Marine will be created, and its organization and the technical language to be employed will be borrowed from Japan. It was also intended to obtain the services of a Japanese naval officer of high rank to act as adviser.

The central office of the new naval administration will be at Tientsin, with subordinate establishments at Shanghai, Chefoo, Nanking, in the Chusan near Hongkong. The existing stations of the fleet at Tientsin and Nanking will be fortified and taken over by the central administration, and naval schools will be established at the six stations named under Japanese and foreign instructors. The eventual tactical and strategical organization of the new Chinese navy will be in a number of divisions, composing two or more squadrons, to be determined on later, to be known as the active fleet, and in addition to these a strong reserve squadron.

The plans, so far as matured, have been adapted from the Japanese, whose naval department gave important assistance in the matter; and the Viceroys of the different coast and river provinces are actively cooperating with the central Government in carrying through the scheme.

Kenyon's Court of Honor.

The students of Kenyon College have a court of honor among themselves which generations ago is now possessed by is assisting the faculty materially in few. Then every child of decently re- maintaining discipline while it is proligious parentage went to Sunday school | moting a standard of moral responsibility among the students themselves that is of much value.

Applied originally to eliminating dishonest practises in examinations, the students have now extended the court of honor's jurisdiction to the matter of in the history of the lately distraught drinking intoxicants on the college premises. The village of Gambier, which Kenyon dominates and practically owns, is a gem of beauty tucked away in the central Ohio hills. Worldly whom so much attention has been distractions are few in Gambier. The concentrated recently, he was the su- pent up vitality of Kenyon undergraduperintendent of the Sunday school of atedom had to have some vent. Rumors the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, of dormitory revelry came faintly to then under the pastorship of the Rev. Dr. disturb the faculty calm. Reports ex-ALEXANDER, the father of the long-time | aggerated absurdly beyond the fact president of the company. The post of were circulated. But the faculty itself could do little or nothing until the students themselves voluntarily took hold of the matter.

The alma mater spirit is particularly How flourishing the Sunday school of strong in Kenyon. When it comes to this Presbyterian church now is we do anything touching the good name of the a merciless policeman. The student court of honor has exacted a pledge from every student not to drink intoxicants anywhere on the college premises, Presbyterianism of his ancestors, at least and it is wo to him who violates that

President PEIRCE of Kenyon says this movement on the part of the students themselves has done more to promote any legislation the faculty and trustees could ever enact. But the experience of Kenyon in this respect is only the experience of other colleges where the code of honor principle has been adopted. There is a searching vigor to student enforcement of the law which no faculty sternness can match. Sensibilities to which successful appeal may be made have been found even in the most recently Mr. Golpwin Smith, they tremble for used to be. But this emancipation from enth, Twenty-ninth and Thirty-first, con- caught, freshmen when their moral in-

teriors were once thoroughly explored DOUBT. by one of these student courts of honor.

Incidentally, this same manly spirit is doing as much as the books themselves toward turning out the kind of American citizens the American republic needs most in its business. But that is another matter.

Some unique variations of the traditional hospitality of the South are indicated in advance of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S autumn trip through Dixie. "The President's Southern trip," says the Savannah News, "is to be begun on Oct. 17, when the frost is on the pumpkin and the corn is in the shock. At that time persimmons and possums and 'taters will all be at their best. food down with persimmon beer, he has at least one new delight coming to him."

The purpose of this suggestion must be kindly, but a diet of possum and potatoes, with persimmon beer on the side canno be thought alluring to any one who has expert knowledge of such true Southern deli-cacies as fried chicken, corn muffins, terrapin, oyster loaf and peanut fed ham. October is perhaps the best month in the

year for traveling in the South, especially for an itinerary which is to include some of the Gulf States. But the suggestion that October offers any prospect of frost on pumpkins must be a figure of speech.

A hearty Southern welcome does not necessarily include possum as a standard article of diet for Presidential parties or other groups of official tourists. Georgia has greater delicacies than this, and the rice, corn and vegetables of the Cracker State would attract where a possum, sweet potato and persimmon diet would fail to

The persimmon is nutritious, but the vogue of persimmon beer is strictly local. The merits of this beverage are not likely to receive much attention from a party visiting the Southland for other purposes than those of gastronomic research.

THE DECLINE OF JUDAISM. A Call by a Jew for the Adaptation of His Religion to Present Conditions.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Dr. Singer overestimates the number of "church-

less" New York Jews.

True, only a small minority may be pew holders or regular attendants of any particular synagogue, yet very many of the remainder. if only to attend services during the fall holy days, then procure seats at some synagogue or at some hall where divine service is then The number of synagogues has increased, and many small communities finanhall for the purpose; and to accommodate the multitudes desirous of attending divine services during the fall holy days many additional halls are temporarily hired.

However, it is true that for, say, fifty weeks of the year there is a much diminished average attendance; but, in Christian churches, com-

services with the average Sunday attendance, and one sees a similar condition It is true, perhaps, that it has become the exception among Jewish shopkeepers to close on Sabbath (Saturday), and also true that thousands of Jewish workingmen and keeper as the public servant, must do business when the public so requires, to exist and prosper, while the workingman cannot af-iord to lose a sixth of his week's pay to keep

pare the numbers at Easter and Christmas

not die, and never will. Translations into existing modern languages will be read by Jews and non-Jews, as are works of literary value of every other nation, irrespective of their authors having been Jew, Christian, Buddhist or Agnostic.

However, if the Jewish bookseller finds slow sale for Jewish literature, he, like any other sensible merchant, will not condemn patrons for not buying what he might prefer to sell, but will change his line to goods which his patrons demand.

Even the learned and well known compler of the Jewish Encyclopedia will admit that its publication was a commercial enterprise, and, while no Jewish publisher may have been willing to publish this very instructive and important work, his experience, after all, was only that of many another author, or playwright, or inventor. Twenty will see no merit in a project which proves on trial to be a profitable venture.

The gist of argument over Judaism's future is the fact that when and where persecuted, oppressed and restricted because of being Jews, they lived up to the full tenor of their faith; yet with persecution relaxed or absent, fuller or complete liberties and civil rights granted, they no longer live the strenuous Jewish life. History repeats itself; the Pilgrim Fathers were certainly more devout Christians than their present Back Bay descendants.

An analysis of Judaism will, as Dr. Singer says, show it to be "a complex of religious laws, customs and traditions." Is it not forever looking backward? Is not living a life of past times difficult and almost impossible, because of totally changed sphere and conditions?

Does it not seem wise for the divided branches of Judaism, instant of continuing their present and apparently endless wrangle, to convene for the purpose of radically analyzing the faith, eliminating the observance of obsolete ancient or national customs and traditions as part of the religion, yet carefully preserving the simple and grand old laws which constitute the rock foundation of Judaism, and which are the similar ba

Suggestions for Tippers. I offered tips to none save colored porters and

It seems to me that it would be a good thing if in barber shops, for instance, some such placard as this were displayed: "We are not self-respecting Americans and we

Then no man would object to handing his barber to cents in addition to the 30. Or one might have a number of cards struck off containing the words: "I give you this tip of a dime because I know you are not a self-respecting American."

Then each time the tip was handed out the card

could go with it and it would be up to the barber to accept or decline the card and the tip.

And those who consider it mean not to tip could drop their dimes into a Salvation Army cup at the cashier's deak, sure that the money was going to a deserving cause. CHARLES BATTELL LOOMIS, FANWOOD, June 9.

Pertinent Questions on Japan's Military Leaders.

To the Editor of the Sun-Sir: The world has marveled at the military qualifications and achievements of the Japanese. There has been some talk about our having at some future time a collision with that interesting people. My first inquiry is: Were their Generals and Admirals appointed because of their qualifications or because themselves has done more to promote order, discipline and good morals than or in some other line, as, for example, the school

NEW YORK, June 10.

Question for Mr. Gardiner. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Since Charles A. Gardiner has kindly undertaken to tell us all about the Constitution, is it out of place for me to ask whether this distinguished native of the Dominion of Canada has ever become a citizen of the

Up in this part of the State there's some doubt as to whether he's a citizen of the United States or a Canucht.

FORE COVERGEOUS.

THE REMEDY FOR RELIGIOUS

A Letter From Goldwin Smith. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: You say that you receive communications speaking bitterly of these letters. Their

writer does not fail to receive outpourings of feeling, now from the side of orthodoxy, which denounces him as an atheist, now from the side of ultra materialism, which taxes him with cowardly adherence to theistic superstition. He is but one of many who in these days of perplexity and doubt are trying to find some secure foundation for belief in the moral government of the universe, in the authority of conscience and in the more hopeful view of the change which is to take place at death. For the aged perhaps the last question has more pressing interest than for the young. You have told us that there is an increase

of formal membership in the orthodox, a decrease in the more rationalistic Churches. Granting this to be the case, does it denote a decrease of rationalism and an increase of orthodox belief? Would a seceder from an orthodox Church be likely at once to register himself elsewhere? Is formal membership proof of unshaken conviction? Judging from my observation in England, I should say that it was not. Does not this increased resort to esthetic attractions betray a feeling of mistrust? Do we not hear from one Church after another, now from the Presbyterian, now from the Anglican, an appeal of conscientious and enlightened clergymen for a removal or relaxation of tests? Has not unrest been disclosed by a series of trials for heresy? Have not leading clergymen of the Church of England petitioned for liberty to deal freely and critically with the New Testament? Has not Presbyterianism produced the writings of Robertson Smith? Is not the "Encyclopædia Biblica." in which the resurrection of Christ is treated as a vision, edited by a Canon of the Anglican Church and professor of theology at Oxford? We surely have come to a crisis in the history of religion and all that rests upon it.

There might be less disposition to oling to traditional formularies of belief and greater willingness to set the clergy, our natural guides, free from their present shackles if we had present to our minds the extent to which denominational creeds had been fixed, not by spiritual authority of any kind, but by secular power, and largely for political ends. In the case of the Anglican Church it may, I think; be clearly shown that from the commencement of the religious revolution under Henry VIII. to its close under Elizabeth the representation of the clergy never had an effective voice. Convocation, had it been allowed, would have perpetuated the Catholic settlement of Mary; and of the episcopate, in the eyes of Anglicans a special channel of true belief, all the members but one or, if Sodor and Man is to be counted, tworesigned. In the Scotch Reformation also influence distinctly political was very strong.

One is surprised to find that a champion of Catholicism in your columns can point to the 300,000,000 nominal Catholics as testifying by their unshaken belief to the stability of his Church. In the Papal city itself, while Ignatius Loyola still rests in his shrine of lapis lazuli and gold, not far off rises the statue of Giordano Bruno, erected by "the age which he foresaw" on the spot Sabbath.

True, too, there is laxity in observance of Jewish dietary laws, but there are Jewish restaurants a-pienty, and their number seems to be increasing, but whether they display the symbolic Jewish sign or do not display it seems of no moment. Signs are not among Jewish edibles.

True, too, the study of Jewish law is falling into disuse, but why not? The bulk of Jewish laws were made in the times of and for the government of the Jewish nation. Since Jewish national existence ceased centuries ago, of what practical value (save historical) are national laws without a nation to be governed thereby?

Jewish literature contains much that is beautiful, wise and instructive; such need not die, and never will. Translations into existing modern languages will be read by Jews and non-Jews, as are works of literary value of every other nation, irrespective of by "the age which he foresaw" on the spot

Let those who shrink with horror from the spread of free inquiry draw encouragement and charity at the same time from a grand example. Gladstone, as Morley's life of him shows, was to the end of his days a High Churchman, intensely religlous, a believer in special providence, in the inspiration of Scripture, in the efficacy of prayer. Yet he could not only associate and act heartily with free thinkers, but look with satisfaction on the activity of the general conscience and say that while there had never been an age so much perplexed with doubt, there had never been one so full of the earnest pursuit of truth.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

"Fabulous" Rewards of Insurance Agents To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Comments have been made of late upon what is termed the fabulous sums paid to life insurance agents in commissions. I am one of the agents of the Equitable, and I have no apologies to offer for representing that grand old society. I have served the Equi-table many years and have placed a neat little sum of business upon its books, but I have yet to find the fabulous sums which, according to the highly imaginative commentators, have been paid to me as commissions. The fact is, that the compensa-tion of an agent is about \$25 on a transaction involving the payment of from \$1,000 to \$1,500 to the policyholder, and a small commission on renewal

premiums. In every case where a policy is returned not taken the fabulously endowed agent has to pay the medical fee, and on every policy returned to the society after the lapse of sixty days the same plutocratic agent is charged term insurance. In addition to all these contributions the agent is charged office expenses, and for every dollar borrowed as advances he is charged interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

In many instances applicants for policies demand

all or a considerable part of the commissions of their agents, and I should not wonder if these very people who deprive the agent of his justly earned compensation are the ones who howl and yow-wow the loudest about the fabulous earnings

It is high time that the public should leasn the true facts about what the agents earn in commis-sions and not be misled by the wild and wholly unsubstantiated talk of commentators who know no ore about the life insurance business than does PORT RICHMOND, June 9. JULIUS SCHWARTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: "Peace with nonor." Is not the so-called "Russian honor" buried as deep in the ocean of national opinion as her warships are sunk in the Sea of Japan?
"Russian honor" started a war by a lie to the

nations. "Russian honor" tried to bully right by supposed might—the "honor" that premeditated and planned the dishonorable keeping of territory assigned to her in trust. The "honor" that continued a war of slaughter for personal power and graft, and means debauch-

ery, theft and murder, without a single redeeming trait, as it stands before the bar of the God of nations, is receiving its just sentence.

Will the "true Russian honor" arise from its crime and oppression, establish its all powerful scepter of right?

"Act well your part-there all the honor lies."

Enriching English.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Why not adopt the word "togo-ed" to signify giving your opponent an overwhelming defeat in a game of cards, or in It certainly would make a good verb for practical

use in the Japanese language. JOHN F. BAXTER. NEW YORK, June 10.

Blessed be the man who invented the hammock. Bleased be the cunning that guided his hand, Giving the chance of both pleasure and safety esfully rocking the boat upon-land,

THE ENGLISH DRAMA.

What Are the Causes of Its Present Lac mentable State?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I notice a paragraph on the "exhaustion of English playwrights" in one of our local papers, with a quotation from THE SUN, to this effect: "English playwrights are almost without exception showing signs of artistic exhausion. There has not been a single infusion of new blood. But our playwrights even at their best do not reach the level of the Eng-

lish authors." This is a sad confession. I thought they had managed these things better in America, as well as in France. The causes of the decay are no doubt the facts that theaters multiply in London under the hands of some common-place speculators or ambitious actors who look out for parts only suited to themselves, and that original production is confined to

The ordinary theatrical speculator believes thoroughly that he will find his best account in frivolity and show, pandering to the meanest tastes. He does this at great cost, but few if any succeed in making a fortune, at that. A man of taste and business capacity with good pieces, old and new, and having an excellent company is far more likely to succeed. Readers of the late Mr. John Hollingshead's memoirs may remember that he said he made £80,000 in ten years in this manner. and that when he embarked in pieces only of costly show he lost all his money. I remember meeting the late Mr. Leonard Outram, an amiable occasional manager, and an intelligent man, too, after the failure of a costly piece of show of his at the New Olympic, to the loss of not far from £10,000, and I asked him if he had not read Hollingshead's book. He said no. "Better," I said, "you had done so; you would not have produced this trash, from which you tell me you expected to make your fortune." Boucicault tried at times this glitter business and lost money at it. Why did he not stick to his Irish plays, where there was some gold, in a double sense, in

Boucleault said that the low condition of the stage was due to defective press criticism Well, I dare say if the leading dramatio writers and critics laid their heads together to condemn trash or semi-trash they would do much to empty the theaters for cleansing purposes. But more than that is needed. Only one or two critics, it is to be feared, fight for high class work. I remember very well that twenty years ago students of the

the "glitter"?

well that twenty years ago students of the drama such as Mr. Archer and Mr. H. A. Jones were quite opposed to the Shakespearian forms of the art as irrational or unsuited to the modern theater.

I controverted such views in the National Review for November, 1885, in an essay under the title of "Shakespeare as a Dramatic Model"; and five years afterward I published "The Autocrat in the Greenroom," with a play after "Othello," written by myself, in which I demonstrated, I believed, the excellence of the Shakespearian forms, My contentions have proved correct. Shakespeare for a considerable time past in London has been the only dramatist whose works are to be seen in the theaters and even common playwrights scarcely exist at all. Yet this author wrote 300 years ago! It is a sad state of affairs.

playwrights scarcely exist at all. Yet this author wrote 300 years ago! It is a sad state of affairs.

The remedy is to throw London aside, and for the theaters in other great cities to start players and plays of their own, casting costly frivols to the winds, or at all events relegating these to the holidays of the winter period. The treasuries of these theaters would unquestionably be benefited by employing authors directed to turn their attention to national character and concern, even after Boucloault, if not Shakespeare. I have now been a playgoer in this city—modern Athens—for half a century, and yet until I produced a slight play with national music in a hall about twenty years ago no original preduction by a local author had been given during the previous thirty years; nor has there been any since till an obscure theater here the other month staged a musical play by a Glasgow writer with good male actors, and the production proved a great success. This theater management was driven to original production from the multiplicity of theaters, the long standing ones only securing the "London successes;" which I believe did small good to their treasuries.

We have no jealousy of American successes; and it is to be wished that the fresh genius of that newer country might diesover some rare dramatic forces for us. In the absence of it, I would recommend such a course as I have indicated for raising the dramatic crops. Actors are too apt to fancy themselves the seeds, the sowers, the harvesters and the cooks, too. But it should be remembered by them that the original concentions are with the author, and if they do not find good nursery ground for him there will neither be right seed nor harvest. I trust that in time in the dearth of new enterprises men of taste and general capacity, as well as independence of mind and character, will ret into the theater business.

EDINBURGE, June 1.

KING OSCAR'S PROBLEM. Swede Likens Norway's Position to That of Ireland in United Kingdom. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: As I have just returned from a six months visit

to Sweden and Norway, I have had an opporunity to watch the political conflict between the two countries on the scene of action I attended the opening of the Riksdag at the Royal Palace in Stockholm, and heard speech to the men of the Riksdag. Among was the one asking for a separate consular service for Norway. Later, when the question was brought before the Riksdag, I ob-

tained permission, through the courtesy of a

member, to attend and listen to the discus-The Swedish side recognized that by granting this petition they would practically sever the union of Norway and Sweden. Then, too, the financial status of these two little nations would be inadequate to assume the added expense involved in maintaining sep-arate consular services. There was no preoedent, either, for such a procedure, and the Swedes were up against a pretty difficult problem. Great Britain and Ireland have

swedes were up against a pretty difficult problem. Great Britain and Ireland have one consular service and one Ministry to represent the United Kingdom. You might as well demand that each one of the United States of America should be separately represented and expect to maintain unity.

One cause for disgruntement among the Norwegians seems to be that the King does not live in Christiania during a portion of each year. I talked with many Norwegians when I was in Christiania, and the consensus of opinion seemed to be that, since Oscar was King of both Norway and Sweden, he ought to make his headquarters alternately in Christiania and Stockholm. The Scotch and Irish nations might just as well set up a howl because King Edward makes England his headquarters instead of conducting the affairs of State now in Scotland and again in Ireland.

The truth of the matter is this: The Norwegians have great race pride and do not wish to be looked upon as subservient to the rule of another Power, no matter what privileges they may have of home rule or how gentle and lenient the governing power may be. In this they have the sympathy of all liberty loving Americans. But there is another side, and a very important one, to be considered.

United, Sweden and Norway have weight in European diplomacy: divided, they will

considered.
United, Sweden and Norway have weight in European diplomacy; divided, they will be continually menaced by the superior force of greater Powers. South of them they have Germany, at the east Russia, and on the west , at the east Russia, and on the west

of greater Powers. South of them they have Germany, at the east Russia, and on the west Great Britain.

These two little nations standing alone will be mere footballs, to be played with and played for.

It has been the dream of King Oscar's life to maintain peace and unity between his peoples, and these troubles have been a source of great grief to this grand old monarch. Some of those near to him have told me that his Majesty often weeps over the situation. King Oscar is a far sighted man, with a cood heart and a level head. His interest is always for the welfare of his subjects, and there is not a man in the world more respected and beloved than this kind, gentle, intelligent ruler of Sweden and Norway.

Velma Swanston Howard.

New York, June 10.

Man Proposes.

From President Roosevelt's letter of regret to the Pagrims, dated May M.

I have your letter of the 15th inst. transmitting the invitation of the Pilgrims of the United States to attend their dinner to Ambassador Choate on the evening of the 9th of June. It is simply out of the question for me to leave Washington at the time of your banquet. From the news despatches dated June 9.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., June 9.—President Rossevelt, accompanied by two Secret Service agents, arrived here this afternoon to visit the Albemaria farm recently purchased by him.

In Dogdom.

First Bulldog-Did you take much stock in that roung suitor? Second Buildor-Well, I formed a holding